

## THE FUR SEALERS.

## Preparations for the Season's Work—How They Are Caught.

Unusual preparation is being made here and at Victoria for the coast catch of fur seals, says a Seattle, Wash., dispatch to the Globe-Democrat. The price of skins is higher now than has ever been known. Two years ago the best skins of the fur seal sold here at \$4.50 each. A lot of 3,000 was purchased here about a month ago for \$12.75, and now the skins are worth from \$20.00 to \$25.00 each, and there are none to be had. Notwithstanding this the catch of coast seals and seals in the forbidden waters was very large. There were, leaving the Alaska fur company and the North American company out of consideration, thirty American and as many more Canadian vessels engaged in the catch. The returns show that they took about 40,000 skins, worth on a reasonable estimate to them \$400,000. This has inspired the fitting out of new vessels here and at Victoria. Half a dozen more men-of-war are being sent on the way from Nova Scotia and will arrive here by January 1, when the season begins. The season lasts from that time on till April, and sometimes into May.

The catch of seals along the Pacific coast, from the Farallone islands off San Francisco, up the Oregon and Washington coasts to Cape Flattery, has grown very important lately. Two years ago 30,000 skins were taken. New vessels have been added to the fleet every year. The seals have got a good deal of whippers, but there are more to hunt them. They are found usually off the various harbors and bays, from five to 100 miles out from the coast. During high water in the spring, when the salmon run, they are found in large numbers ten or fifteen miles out from the mouths of the Klamath, Columbia, Coquille and other rivers. One thing that has caused more schooners to be fitted out for the coast for seals is the superiority of their skins over those of the Pribiloff islands. The fur is newer and thicker, and commands a shade better price. Unlike the Pribiloff island hunting where the animals are killed with clubs, the seals are shot in the water, there being no islands or rocks where they gather. Each schooner carries from fifteen to twenty-five Indians with the requisite rowboats. Arriving off coast in the sealing waters, each small boat is manned by three of the Indians, two of whom manage the oars while the third watches warily with a shotgun for the seals. Oftentimes the seals are killed while asleep. The hunters steal noiselessly upon half a dozen or more of them, and all three grasping quickly the shotgun in the bottom of the boat, fire, oftentimes killing eight or ten of them before the rest disappear. Shot does not damage the skins as far as the market is concerned, because in dressing and dyeing them the skins are worked full of holes anyway and require cutting and piecing.

The hunters stay out from daylight till dark in good weather. Fog does not interfere. The schooner is always cruising near, and at such times ever and anon discharges signals. Should violent winds or storms spring up the hunters must desist till they are over. Hunting for fur seals is not hard work. All they have to do is to take things easy and watch. The shotguns are death-dealing at forty yards. Captain E. P. Miner, of this city, is a seal hunter of long experience. In 1888 he took 208 seals in one day. This was the best record he ever made up to that time, but one day this year his men took for him 242 in a day.

Of the sixty American and Canadian vessels engaged in sealing from this and neighboring ports this year thirty-five confined themselves almost exclusively to the shores of British Columbia and Alaska, trawling on the waters of Behring sea. The remaining twenty-five hunted off the straits of San de Fuca and Cape Flattery principally. For a time eight or ten worked off the Oregon coast, and did very well, their greatest success being near the mouths of the larger rivers. One vessel, however, stood fully one hundred miles out, during nearly all the season, and took over 15,000 skins. This was in a locality where the water is 1,000 feet deep. The fur seal is a very peculiar animal and runs far out at sea to live on squid and various other kinds of food. Even where none are known to exist the seal is fat and has a good skin. The many seal hunters here say that the season which is now about to open will be a very lively one. The big prices of the present year, combined with the big catch, has made them very enthusiastic.

**The Winter of Our Content**  
Is the title of a recent charming paper by that brilliant writer Charles Dudley Warner, wherein the glories of the Pacific coast, as a winter resort, are most graphically described. The American people are beginning to understand that the Pacific coast is one of our most splendid possessions and that the name of the "Mediterranean of the Pacific" is a happy title not misapplied. In speaking of Mount Tacoma, Senator George F. Edmunds says:

"I would be willing to go 500 miles again to see that scene. The continent is yet in ignorance of what will be one of the grandest show places as well as sanitariums. If Switzerland is rightly called the playground of Europe, I am satisfied that around the base of Mount Rainier will become a prominent place of resort, not for America only, but for the world besides, with thousands of sites for building purposes, that are nowhere excelled for the grandeur of the view that can be obtained from the kind of topographical features that would make the most perfect system of drainage both possible and easy, and with most agreeable and health giving climate."

Thousands of delighted tourists over the Union Pacific the past year bear ample testimony to the beauty and majesty of this new empire of the Pacific northwest.

1602, Sixteenth and Farnam streets is the new Rock Island ticket office. Tickets to all points east at lowest rates.

**The Early Residents of California.**  
The early foreign residents of California were largely runaway sailors. Writes General Bidwell in the Century. Many if not most would change their names. For instance, Gilroy's ranch where the town of Gilroy is now located, was owned by an old resident under the assumed name of Gilroy. Of course vessels touching upon this coast were liable, as they were everywhere, to lose men by desertion, especially if the men were maltreated. Such things have been so common that it is not difficult to believe that those who left their vessels in early days on this then distant coast had cause for so doing. To be known as a runaway sailor was no stain upon a man's character. It was no uncommon thing, after my arrival here, for sailors to be skulking and hiding about from ranch to ranch till the vessel they had left should leave the coast. Californians would catch and return sailors to get the reward which, I believe, captains of vessels invariably offered. After the vessels had sailed and there was no chance of the reward the native Californians gave the fugitive no further trouble.

## OLD FASHIONED HARVESTING.

## How Farming Was Conducted in California in the Forties.

Harvesting, with the rude implements, was a scene, writes General Bidwell in the Century. Imagine three or four hundred wild Indians in a grain field armed, some with sickles, some with butcherknives, some with pieces of hoop iron roughly fashioned into shapes like sickles, but many having only their hands with which to gather by small handfuls the dry and brittle grain; and as their hands would soon become sore, the resorted to dry willow sticks, which were split to afford a sharper edge with which to sever the straw. But the wildest part was the threshing. The harvest of wheat, sometimes of a month, was piled up in the straw in the form of a huge mound in the middle of a high, strong, round corral; then three or four hundred wild horses were turned in to thresh it, the Indians choosing to make them run faster. Suddenly they would dash in before the band at full speed, when the motion became reversed, with the effect of plowing up the trampled straw to the very bottom. In an hour the grain would be thoroughly threshed and the dry straw broken almost into chaff. In this manner I have seen 2,000 bushels of wheat threshed in a single hour. Next came the winnowing, which would often take a month. It could only be done when the wind was blowing, by throwing high into the air shovelfuls of grain, straw and chaff, the lighter materials being wafted to one side, while the grain, comparatively clean, would descend and form a heap by itself. In this manner all the grain in California was cleaned. At that day no such thing as a fanning mill had ever been brought to this coast.

The special quality of Ayer's Hair Vigor is that it restores the natural growth, color, and texture of the hair. It vitalizes the roots and follicles, removes dandruff, and heals itching humors in the scalp. In this respect, it surpasses all similar preparations.

Samuel Burns is just in receipt of a telegram:

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Your importation of royal wootter has just arrived. Will go forward by express the 20th.

DAVIDSON & PITCAIRN.

These goods will go on sale Tuesday morning at about half usual prices.

WASHINGTON AND OREGON.

This new empire of the northwest is attracting universal attention and the reason for this is the almost unlimited resources that have recently been opened and the surprising growth of this region. Large agricultural areas; vast forests and immense deposits of precious metals are to be found in Oregon and Washington, and by reason of the varied natural resources of the country this section offers unequalled opportunities for the investment of capital and location of industries that are not surpassed by the older sections of the United States. The Union Pacific on account of its fast time, through Pullman sleepers and dining cars, free reclining chair cars and free colonist sleepers from the Missouri river, is conceded to be the favorite route for persons going to either Washington or Oregon.

For pamphlets fully descriptive of the above named states, or for rates, time of trains or any information pertaining to the Union Pacific, call on or address your nearest ticket agent or the undersigned, who will most cheerfully furnish any information that may be desired. A. P. Deuel, city ticket agent, 1302 Farnam street, Omaha, Neb.

Dr. Birney, Nose and Throat, Beeblod.

An Indian Vaquero.

The Indian vaqueros, who lived much of the time on the more distant cattle ranges, were a wild set of men, says a writer in the Century. I remember one of them, named Martin, who was stationed in Amador Valley and became a leader of the hill vaqueros, who were very different from the vaqueros of the large valley near the missions. He and his friends killed at least about four hundred young heifers belonging to the mission, but when Easter approached he felt that he must confess his sins, so he went to Father Narciso and told all about it. The father forgave him, but ordered him to come in from the hills to the mission and attend school until he could read. The rules were very strict; whoever failed twice in a lesson was always whipped. Martin was utterly unable to learn his letters, and he was whipped every day for a month, but he never complained. He was then dismissed and went back to the hills. I used to question Martin about the affair, and he would tell me with perfect gravity of manner, which was very delightful, and how wisely the good father had punished him. He knew now, he used to say, how very hard it was to live in the town, and he would never steal again lest he might have to go to school until he had learned his letters.

Stop coughing at once by the immediate use of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup; 25 cents a bottle.

"I see a Star, Eve's first born, in whose train"

Comes the damp twilight that bringeth pain.

For aches of head, neuralgia, cut and bruise, Try Salvation Oil, these will you lose.

Weather Probabilities.

For December—Indications point to cold, frosty weather. That, however, will make no difference to those who travel in the steam-heated and electric-lighted, limited vestibule train which is run only by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Ry. between Omaha and Chicago. The elegant train leaves Omaha at 6:10 p. m., arriving in Chicago at 9:30 a. m., in time to make all eastern connections. For further information apply at city ticket office, 1501 Farnam st., Omaha.

F. A. NASH, General Agent.

J. E. PHISTON, City Passenger Agent.

Every Bridegroom a Shoemaker.

Nothing was more attractive than the wedding cavalcade on its way from the bride's house to the Mission church, says a writer in the Century. The horses were more richly caparisoned than for any other ceremony, and the bride's nearest relative or family representative carried her before him, she sitting on

**Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder**  
Used in Millions of Homes—25 Years the Standard.

MUFFLERS.

SUSPENDERS.

OVERCOATS.

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